



United States Department of the Interior



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (760)

26 JAN 1994

Memorandum

To: Directorate, Regional Directors, Manager, Harpers Ferry Center

From: Associate Director, Planning and Development

Subject: Visual Quality of Built Environments in National Parks, Distribution of Document

The attached document is a milestone in the progress of the National Park Service "Visual Quality Initiative," begun by the late John (Jay) Bright of the Denver Service Center and Ervin Zube from the University of Arizona.

The purpose of the report is to assist managers in evaluating the built environment of their respective units, including the accumulated results of long and short-term maintenance, repair, etc. Does the built environment strengthen the "special" character of the place? If not, what can be improved? The report does not provide solutions to specific problems; it is a guideline to be used as resource and reference. Key topics and sections include the background/history of visual quality, law in aesthetics and design, applications of computer technology, park housing and visual quality, design themes and guideline case studies, and an annotated bibliography.

The contents of Visual Quality of Built Environments in National Parks stand as testimony and support for all the individual efforts to improve the experience of both visitor and employee to our areas.

By copy of this memorandum and under separate cover, I am providing copies of the report to all superintendents and to the design professionals at the Denver Service Center, Harpers Ferry Center and the regional offices.

Denis P. Galvin

Attachment

ERRATA

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Captions for three photos should read

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Top Photo — | Existing landscape where site photographs were matched electronically to a three-dimensional terrain model |
| Middle Photo — | Proposed commercial development (simulation) |
| Bottom Photo — | Simulation of the commercial development matched to the digitized terrain model and site photographs |